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THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE

Magic Lantern Society of United States and Canada ©

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www.magiclanternsociety.org

From the President

As I sit here on a gorgeous February day in Seabeck, it's hard to believe that it has been a little over three months since our San Antonio convention. Time passes so quickly these days. I would like to share some of the developments that have occurred within the Society since October.

The executive board has moved to have the 2006 Convention location in Seattle on July 7-9th,. **Plans have been finalized on a downtown Seattle hotel, thanks to Ralph Shape and his committee. Tom Rall and David Francis have also agreed to host the 2008 Convention in Washington DC.**

Hats off to Larry Cederblom, who spent hours working to create our new Society Handout, which accompanies this issue. He has done his usual excellent job, and we should all be grateful to him as we distribute them to individuals who ask the question, "What is a Magic Lantern?" How many times have we wished for something to give to those who are interested?

By the time this Gazette is in your hands, there will be some important changes to our website, thanks to Dorothy Easterday and our webmaster. If you haven't checked it out, make time to do so soon. This is a work in progress, so please feel free to express your reaction and suggestions.

David Francis and other society members are moving ahead to form the Scholar Committee, set goals, and discuss ideas. We will continue to read more about this new focus later in 2005.

One of my goals as president is to increase communication among Society members. To that end, I will be working with various members in the near future to establish regional groups for the purpose of meeting and sharing our mutual passion for the lantern. If you are interested in forming an area group, please let me know. We have been adding new members who are anxious to learn and share, and what better way than a meeting or two during the year. It can be within the state, or across two or three states, depending on the number of members within that area. It would not be an overwhelming task to set a date and location. It just takes a willingness to participate. Email me with more ideas.

Good luck and good hunting to all in your search for that elusive lantern or slide. May we all enjoy and share our stories.

Sharon Koch

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MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY OF THE U.S. & CANADA
NW GROUP Minutes – August 15, 2004
By Judie Shape

Members present at Shel Izen's creek side Seattle home were Alice Koch, Ralph and Judie Shape, John and Betty Potter, Mike and Sharon Koch, Bob Doran, Larry Cederblom, and Dorothy and Ron Easterday.

After a great lunch and tour of Shel's home, President Ralph called for the minutes and treasurer's report. The account balance was $5680.85. He informed us that member Paul Tobias and his wife had been killed in March when a plane flown by Paul had crashed while trying to land in foggy weather. (Secretary's note: Jack Judson later reported that Paul had visited with Jack at the Castle, and will be missed by many members.)

Shel reported that Lindsay Lambert gave a show at the Avonlea Convention in July and his photo and slides are on the web. Shel will email us the site address.

Ralph read the emails, some of which he had forwarded to those interested in the topic. Gale Wollenberg is doing shows for the 150 year Topeka celebration. Several people were looking for value of collections.

Bob Bishop's new book *Illuminations,* is available, and copies will be at the convention.

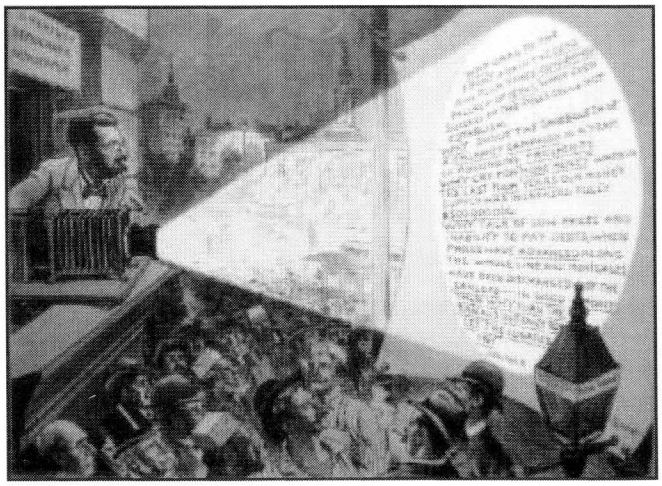
Alice stated that former member George Hall is doing a video on lanterns and gave credit to certain members who volunteered information.

Suggested prices for requested copies from the reading library being developed by Rick Martyna were discussed.

The material has been sent out on the convention. Jack needs information on who is bringing something for auction. Damer Waddington will not be able to attend due to an illness, but hopes the Red Cabbage Award will continue in his absence, to be awarded to the person who gives the most imaginative lantern program. John Potter will take photos. Articles and photos from the convention will be printed in the December Gazette.

Sharon will research companies that duplicate records so we can reduce the number of paper copies of past Gazettes and Bulletins.

The secretary had to leave before the programs were given, or miss her ride, so will have to rely on other members to fill in the gaps in her report.



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President	Sharon Koch
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Secretary/Treasurer	Dick Moore

Membership
One Years Dues
Regular member $25
Students $5
Institutional Member $25
Commercial Member $25

From the Yahoo Magic Lantern Site

A Sample of a Letter to Members

Back in September 2001 there was a thread in response to an enquiry (by Terry Borton, message 159) about a 4-slide set depicting a gardener being tricked by a mischievous boy, the same subject as the Lumiere brothers' first staged fictional film in 1895. David Francis (message 160) confirmed that the set was French, and believed but couldn't confirm that they preceded the film.

Can anyone help with the following:

1 Has anyone any more information on the provenance or dating of this slide set? Obviously, it is of particular interest and importance to historians of film as well as the lantern, as the sets' existence (and general exhibition) in France pre-1895 would show a clear precedent and possible inspiration for the Lumiere short. Terry, did you manage to pin down a date in your researches?

2 Does anyone have a reasonably clear illustration of the set, which I could see, either on or off-list? Or is it, perhaps available on the web or in a published history?

3 A couple of people I have spoken to during other research have referred to a slipping lantern slide of a similar subject which briefly appeared in a documentary film or series, probably aired on British television between two and four years ago – can anyone confirm this, or suggest which program this might have been, so that I can search for more details?

4 Finally, does anyone (perhaps Richard Crangle) know of any existing slide readings, in any language, that would accompany such a set? (I have already checked the list of reading on the Magic Lantern Society site.)

Sorry to bombard you with questions on my first post. My initial interest in lanterns and lantern slides was peripheral to my researches into early narrative film and contemporary comic strips, but I soon became fascinated by the variety and sophistication of the material and of its presentation. In the pages of most histories and in many Universities, early projected media such as the Magic Lantern seem to be regarded simply as a stage in the evolution of cinema, a quaint but slightly embarrassing ancestor important only for what it would later become. Like most people, I suppose I had imagined Magic Lantern shows either as primitive sideshows, pale rehearsals for the cinema experience that would succeed them, or as a kind of domestic parlour-trick. As I read and viewed more, however, I began to recognize a highly developed medium of entertainment and instruction, and to appreciate the lantern show as a self-contained art form with its own artistic sensibilities and aesthetics. Now, when teaching film, I always try to communicate to students the complexity and, well, "magic" of the good Lantern show, and, in comparison, the disappointment of many audiences with their first experience of cinema; dim, colourless, jerky images, rattling briefly in the silence. Most students are surprised, and some even become interested in pre-cinema media; youngsters brought up on blockbuster special effects movies and video games, fascinated by the working of a moving slide.

Anyway, my appreciation and thanks to the group. Those who continue to research, preserve and, above all, perpetuate the medium as a living experience are doing valuable work, rescuing the Magic Lantern from becoming a footnote in the history of other media.

If anyone can help with any of the above enquires, I would be most grateful. Feel free to contact me on or off-list.

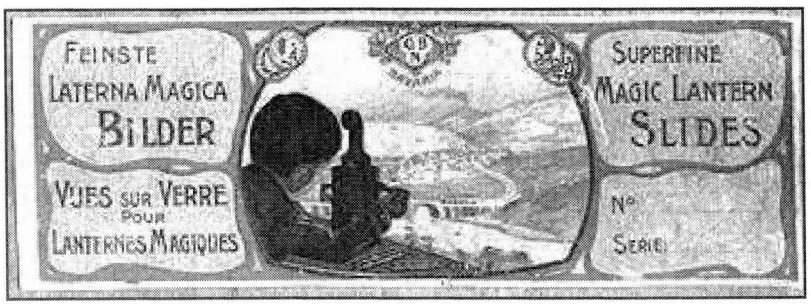
Best Wishes,
Lance Rickman
University of Essex

Want Ads

In my letter to the Editor in the July Magic Lantern Gazette I explained that I was having a violin bow-maker replace damaged wood on my slide carrier. Un fortunately, it has turned out that I didn't make the best decision on the work needed, and chose the wrong person for the job. My subsequent attempts at fixing the problem have been less than successful. It carried me through a show that I gave last month, but I need to find a replacement:

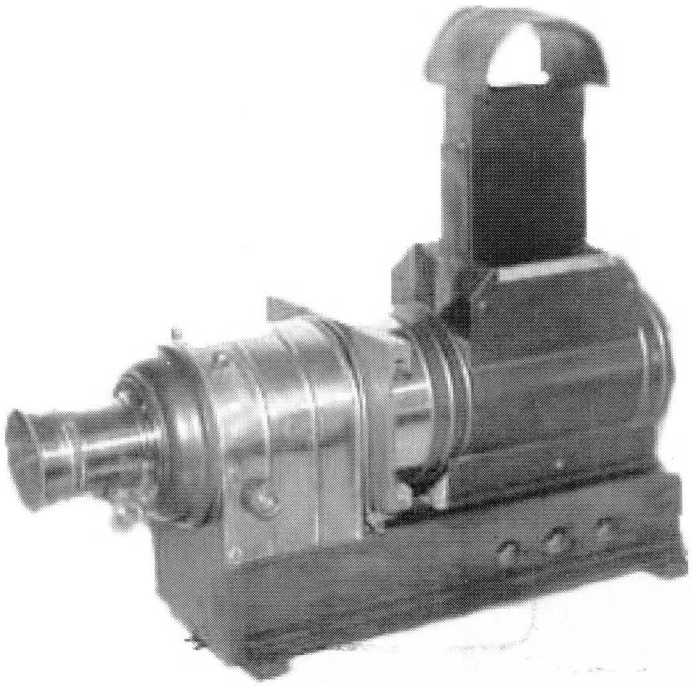
The carrier is the usual double sliding variety, but with parallel slots at each side to accept both the British 3 inch square and American 3 1/4 x 4 inch slides. It needs to be 4 inches from top to bottom, and no more than about 11/16 inch thick, to fit my lantern. There should be lifters for the slides. I use an assortment of the two slide formats in my presentations, so the combination carrier is a necessity. If anyone can please help me out, I will be most grateful. If anybody wants advice on how to repair their slide carrier, I can tell them what not to do!
Lindsay Lambert
41 Bellwood Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 1S6

I have many magic lantern slides of India in the early 1900's. My grandmother and mother were both born there. They are mostly scenery, native people, etc. I would like to sell them. I realize they are probably not worth much. I would like someone to have them that could use them. I am willing to send you some on approval if you are interested. Please contact me only by SASE. No email and no phone calls accepted.
Carol R Friesen
24 Church Street
Wakefield, MA 01880-2302

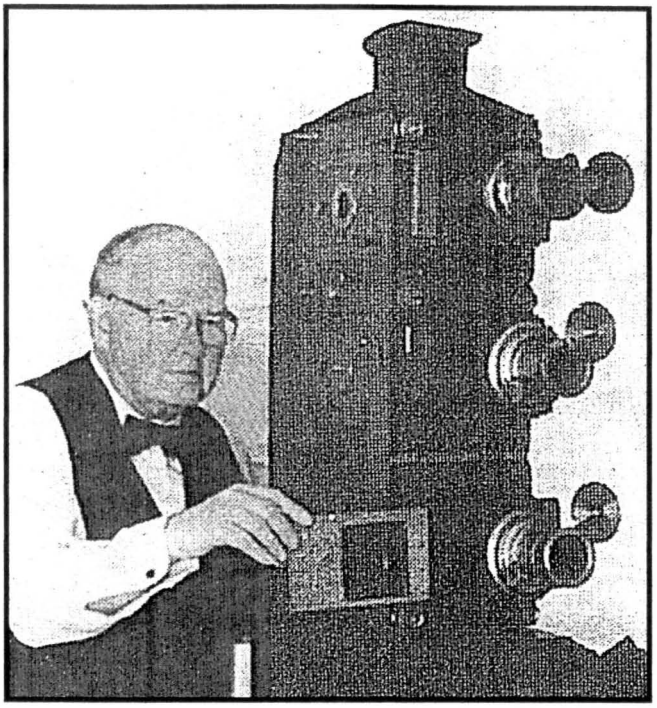


THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA
FINANCIAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2004

Balance November 2003	**$6,684.09**
INCOME	
Bank Interest	$6.36
Dues	3,090.32
Convention	9,252.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$12,348.68**
EXPENSES	
Memorial Fund	$100.00
Christmas Reprint	485.44
Gazette	
Printing	1,883.33
Word Process	335.00
Postage	995.45
Membership Books	
Printing	278.02
Postage	126.95
Postage/Stamps	38.24
Convention	4,797.69
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$9,040.12**
BALANCE NOVEMBER 30, 2004	**$9,992.65**



Damer Waddington



Sad news has traveled across the ocean. Damer Waddington, long time member of both the British Magic Lantern Society and the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada, passed away on Saturday March 19 at his home in Jersey in the Channel Islands. He will be missed by his many friends on both sides of the ocean.

Damer was born in South Africa in 1930, worked for many years in England. His training and occupation was as an electronics engineer. He was introduced to the Magic Lantern by his father who possessed his grandfathers lantern (a Wrench tin lantern purchased sometime in the1880's.) He could therefore claim to be a third generation lanternist. He put his knowledge to great use in the Magic Lantern field and became well known for his talent in designing and building lantern illumination systems. He was a frequent contributor of articles to the publications of both Societies and shared his knowledge by giving lantern shows in both Europe and the United States as well as in Jersey. .

Damer will always be remembered for his presentation at the San Diego convention in 1996. Proposing to perform a show entitled "Scientific Phaenomena" he sent a list of supplies he would require for his show. It included various chemicals, electrical supplies, pond water, live water fleas and a leaf of red cabbage. The show was truly phenomenal but the remains of the red cabbage lingered on. It was decided that henceforth at each convention an award known as the Honorable Damer Waddington Red Cabbage Award would be given to a favorite performance. The next convention was in Cleveland and everyone's favorite was the musical performance by Damer using song slides of "Excelsior", playing his ukulele while singing a duet with Homer Peabody. The red cabbage was awarded and finally went home to Jersey. It has since been given three times, most recently with a beautiful new trophy. The award will continue in his memory.

Damer became the magic lantern authority in Jersey. His thorough research of island libraries and newspapers led to the recent publication of his book titled "Panoramas, Magic Lanterns and Cinemas, a Century of 'Light' Entertainment in Jersey 1814-1914.

Damer and his wife Joan visited Seattle on one of their many trips to America. They were on their way to Canada where he hoped to find Mt. Waddington in British Columbia; named for a relative. He was forever exploring and researching. We will remember Damer for his talent, his scientific skills, his entertaining ways and for his friendship. We would like to convey our sincere sympathy to his wife, Joan.

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HOW TO MAKE LANTERN SLIDES

The practical methods of today described in detail by an expert. Making slides without a camera and by the camera reduction method; daylight and artificial light; developing and toning slides; masking and binding. Complete : with diagrams.

The Photo Miniature

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